IT'S BEEN A YEAR, RIGHT?

IS THIS YOUR NEW ART? I LIKE THE GENTLE LEMON SCENT...

DID YOU HEAR?

THEY FOUND ANOTHER BODY TORN TO SHREDS...

DIDN'T THEY SAY THEY FOUND VAMPIRE CORPSES TOO?

...NOT HIM.

YOU CAN'T CALL THOSE LOW LIVES VAMPIRES!

THOSE SLUMS ARE SUCH A HASSLE. WE SHOULD JUST DEMOLISH THE PLACE...

IT COULD BE THE HUMAN RESISTANCE THEY CALL THE WHITE GHOST, OR THE RED MASKS THAT HATE THE BLOOD LORDS.

ALL THESE RUMORS...

RED, WHITE, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE!

HOW DARE THEY CHALLENGE THE BLOOD LORDS AND US NOBLES...

BEING UNGRATEFUL EVEN AFTER WE LOOKED AFTER THEM DESPITE THEIR WEAK PHEROMONES...

...NOT HIM.

OR HIM EITHER...

THAT STRANGE DESIGN...

DOES THAT MEAN NO ONE HERE OWNS THAT SNAKE AND FLOWER SYMBOL...?

THUD

BLOOD BANK

second chapter masquerade

– play 29 –

ONCE I REACHED MY TEENS...

I BECAME THE OBJECT OF EVERYONE'S FEAR AND ENVY THANKS TO MY PHEROMONES.

SO I COULD PRETEND TO BE LIKE THEM...

TO BE STRONGER THAN THEM... I COULD DO IT BEFORE...

BUT I THINK I'VE CHANGED WITH YOU.

IT'S MUCH...

...HARDER THAN BEFORE.

TREMBLE

SQUEEZE

SHEEEELL~!!

FLINCH

R-REIGN?!

SHE

EEEE ELL~

W-WHY ARE YOU-

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, I CAME TO SEE YOU!!

YOU'RE AS HANDSOME AS ALWAYS, SHELL~!

GRAB

CALM DOWN!!

SNEAK...

HOW ARE YOU HERE WHEN YOU WERE EXPELLED?

FU FU FU...

SHRUG

SHRUG

?

YOU HAVE AN INVESTOR?!

YEAH, FROM A REALLY WEALTHY PERSON, TOO!

I'M ALREADY DOMINATING THE EASTERN MARKETS.

I CAN'T TELL YOU WHO IT IS, BUT...

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE USING MY PERFUME HERE TOO.

I SEE...

... .

I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU A LOT AFTER THAT DAY, SHELL.

I WONDERED IF IT COULD'VE BEEN ME THAT WAS TRYING NOT TO SEE WHAT YOU TRULY WERE...

THAT MAYBE I ONLY WANTED THE YOU I THOUGHT YOU WERE.

I STILL THINK ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY, THOUGH!

KYAA

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED...

THAT'S WHY I LIKE THE CURRENT YOU MORE.

... .

ANYWAY, HAVE YOU SEEN MY FATHER?

DASH

I'M DEAD IF HE SEES ME...

MURMUR

MURMUR

MURMUR

OHO...

HE'S FINALLY HERE...

CLACK...

THE BLOOD LORD OF THE NORTH.

BRUTAL BONES...

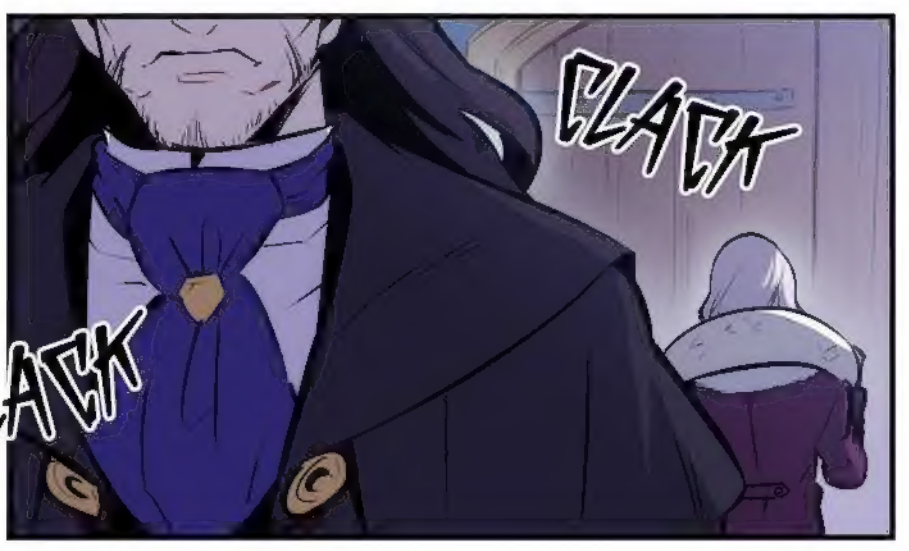
AN ALBINO ART WITH ODD EYES?

WELL, IT'S NOT SURPRISING FOR A BLOOD LORD TO HAVE SUCH A RARE POSSESSION...

FLINCH

A SNAKE SYMBOL!

WHISPER


CLACK
CLACK

...YOU RESEMBLE YOUR FATHER MORE EVERY DAY. YOUNG OVERLORD.

NOT JUST YOUR APPEARANCE, BUT YOUR PHEROMONES TOO!
I COULD FEEL IT FROM ACROSS THE ROOM.
I ALMOST CONFUSED YOU...

...THINKING IT WAS "HIM".

BY "HIM", DO YOU MEAN ME, BRUTAL?

STEP

SMIRK

AHH...

SO YOU'RE HERE, PAIN.

CLINK

SSSS...

...FELLOW VAMPIRES.

WE MUST REMIND OURSELVES OF WHAT OUR ORIGINS ARE.

1500 YEARS AGO,

WHEN THE COLD WORLD COVERED THE PLANET IN DEATH AND DARKNESS,

CREAK...

WE EMERGED BY DEVOURING THAT DEATH FOR OUR OWN NOURISHMENT.

AND SO, BY CONQUERING DEATH, DARKNESS, AND THE COLD,

WE EVOLVED INTO A SUPERIOR SPECIES AND DOMINATED THIS WORLD ONCE AGAIN.

...ONE?

WE, WHO CONQUERED DARKNESS...

CONQUERED HUMANITY...

...AND EVEN CONQUERED BLOOD...

WE ARE HERE TO REMIND OURSELVES

OF OUR ANCESTORS WHO LET THEIR OWN SELFISH DESIRES CLOUD THEIR JUDGEMENT...

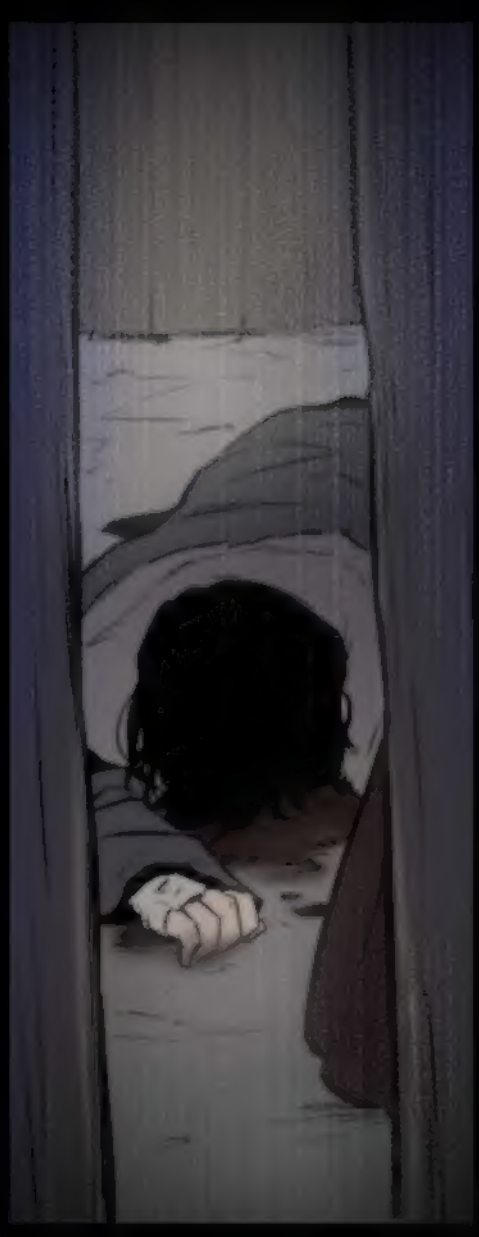
IN THIS ANCIENT CASTLE,

UNTOUCHED BY DESTRUCTION, WHERE WE SIGNED THE NON-AGGRESSION PACT.

IT'S A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT SYMBOL.

I COULD BE WRONG.

BUT...



THIS PLACE, WHICH ACTS AS BOTH OUR FOREBEARS' GRAVE, AND A RELIC OF THAT AGE...

FROM WHERE I STAND, I WARN YOU ALL.

THE DESTRUCTION OUR FOREBEARS WITNESSED WHILST LIVING UNDER THE SUN,

THAT SAME DESTRUCTION COULD HAPPEN TO OUR KIND, WHICH USE HUMAN BLOOD AS PROOF OF OUR EXISTENCE.

SHOULD A TIME OF CHANGE COME, REMEMBER WHO YOU ALL ARE.

REMEMBER THIS GRAVE.

...SO THAT OUR DARKNESS MAY BE ETERNAL.

...SHIT.

WHY IS THIS CORRIDOR SO LONG AND WINDY?

I LOSE SIGHT OF HIM WHENEVER I FALL BEHIND!

WELL, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'LL DO IF I CATCH UP TO HIM...

FREEZE

THAT GUY'S...!!

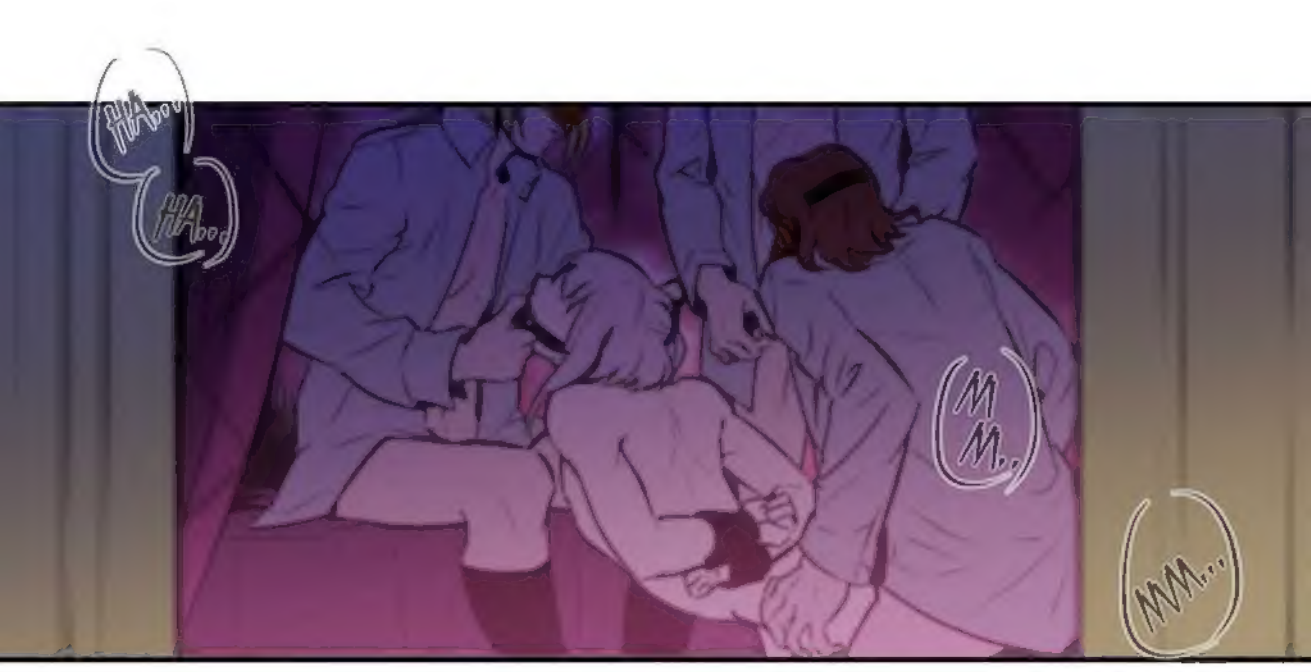
I THINK HE WAS... JACK THE CURATOR?

What a common name

BUT WHY IS HE...

HEY, HEY. BE GENTLE.

I'LL BE THE ONE IN TROUBLE IF THERE'S ANY FLAW. GEEZ...



To be continued!

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